

Response under 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Applicant: Wesley R. Schalk et al.

Serial No.: 10/657,973

Filed: September 9, 2003

Docket No.: 100201968-4

Title: POWER TRANSMISSION ARRANGEMENT

REMARKS

The following Remarks are made in response to the Final Office Action mailed September 12, 2005, in which claims 30-35 were allowed, claims 11-13, 17-21, and 24-29 were rejected, and claims 14-16 and 22-23 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 11-35 remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Examiner Interview

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative, Scott Lund, during a telephonic interview conducted November 10, 2005, during which Applicant's representative and the Examiner discussed the Yoshitaro reference as applied, for example, to Applicant's independent claim 11. During the telephonic interview, the Examiner agreed that the Yoshitaro reference does not teach or suggest a rotatable or rotating shift plate as claimed, for example, in Applicant's independent claim 11.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 11-13, 17-21, and 24-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshitaro JP 08-135680.

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Independent claim 11 includes a plate supported by the shaft and rotatable between a first position and a second position, independent claim 19 recites that rotating the shift plate selectively engages and disengages the pinion gear with the idler gear, and independent claim 25 includes a shift plate supported by the drive shaft and rotatable between a first position and a second position.

With respect to the Yoshitaro reference, Applicant submits that this reference does not teach or suggest a power transmission arrangement as claimed in each of independent claims 11, 19, and 25 including a rotatable or rotating shift plate. For example, the Yoshitaro reference discloses a clutch mechanism including a driving gear 1 and a movable gear 2 which can be moved to engage gear 3 (see, e.g., Figs. 5-7). The plate supporting driving gear 1, movable gear 2, and gear 3 of the Yoshitaro reference, however, does not rotate to engage

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movable gear 2 with gear 3. Rather, with the clutch mechanism of the Yoshitaro reference, movable gear 2 itself is moved to engage gear 3.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that independent claims 11, 19, and 25 are each patentably distinct from the Yoshitaro reference and, therefore, are each in a condition for allowance. Furthermore, as dependent claims 12-18 further define patentably distinct claim 11, dependent claims 20-24 further define patentably distinct claim 19, and dependent claims 26-29 further define patentably distinct claim 25, Applicant submits that these dependent claims are also in a condition for allowance. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 11-13, 17-21, and 24-29 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claims 11-13, 17-21, and 24-29 be allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 30-35 are allowed. Applicant appreciates the indicated allowance of these claims.

Claims 14-16 and 22-23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant appreciates the indicated allowability of claims 14-16 and 22-23. As outlined above, Applicant, however, submits that independent claim 11 (from which claims 14-16 depend) and independent claim 19 (from which claims 22-23 depend) are each allowable over the art of record. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the objection to claims 14-16 and 22-23 be withdrawn and that claims 14-16 and 22-23 be allowed.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 11-35 are all in a condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims.

Any inquiry regarding this Response should be directed to either Robert D. Wasson at Telephone No. (360) 212-2338, Facsimile No. (360) 212-3060 or Scott A. Lund at Telephone No. (612) 573-2006, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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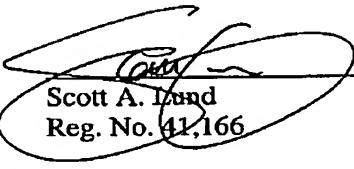
Respectfully submitted,

Wesley R. Schalk et al.,

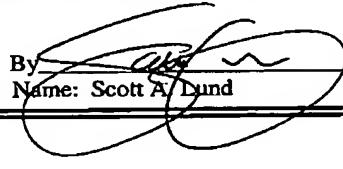
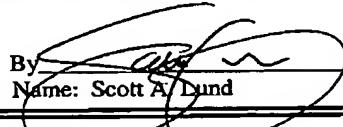
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (571) 273-8300 on this 14th day of November, 2005.


 By 
 Name: Scott A. Lund